

Rafael Frumkin
Curriculum vitae

EDUCATION

- 2016 M.S. in Journalism, Northwestern University.
- 2014 M.F.A. in Fiction, Iowa Writers' Workshop.
Thesis: *The Comedown* (novel).
- 2012 B.A. in Philosophy, Carleton College.
Thesis: "Hannah Arendt, St. Augustine, and Love of the World."

EMPLOYMENT

- 2019 - Present Assistant Professor in Fiction Writing, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.
- 2018-2019 Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Louisiana State University.
- 2017-2018 Adjunct Lecturer in English, Northeastern Illinois University.
- 2017-2018 Visiting Lecturer in English, University of Illinois-Chicago.
- 2013-2014 Instructor in Fiction Writing, University of Iowa.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2024/forthcoming *Bugsy and Other Stories*, short story collection (paperback, Simon & Schuster).
- 2023/forthcoming *Confidence*, novel (hardcover and paperback, Simon & Schuster).
- 2018 *The Comedown*, novel (hardcover and paperback, Henry Holt; Italian translation, SEM Libri).

Short Fiction

- 2020 “Bugsy” (Hazlitt, Canada).
2020 “Elias” (Joyland).
2020 “The Healer” (Hobart).
2019 “Fugato” (Granta, UK); 2020 (Analog, Switzerland).
2018 *The Comedown*, excerpt (Literary Hub).
2013 “The Glitch” (Granta, UK); 2016 Granta in Spain (translation).
2008 “Monster” (Post Road).

Creative Nonfiction

- 2021 “Hearing Is Believing” (Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture, invited essay).
2021 “VQR True Stories: Notes on a Ghost Town” (Virginia Quarterly Review).
2020 “I Think About Meadow Soprano Trying to Parallel Park a Lot” (The Cut).
2020 “Feeling Bullish: On My Great-Uncle, Gay Matador and Friend of Hemingway” (Granta, UK).
2020 “The Problem of White Efficacy” (Guernica).
2020 “The Optimist’s Apocalypse” (Guernica).
2018 “Tripped Up” (The Baffler).
2018 “Learning to Write Characters Who Make Me Feel Less Alone” (Literary Hub).
2018 “Headless Hearts” (Poetry Magazine).
2018 “On Envy, the MFA, and Writing Under Capitalism” (Catapult).
2018 “American Maniac” (Granta, UK).
2016 “Election: On Brain Trauma, Queerness, and Digging for Old Coke Bottles in Cleveland” (Catapult).
2015 “Atypical: On Autism, Misfits, and Neurodiversity” (Catapult).
2015 “Your Prescribing Doctor: Adolescence and Adulthood” (McSweeney’s).
2015 “Your Prescribing Doctor: Kidhood” (McSweeney’s).
2014 “The Abyss” (Granta, UK).

- 2014 “Your Prescribing Doctor: Subcontinental Lithiation Pt. 1” (McSweeney’s).
- 2014 “Your Prescribing Doctor: Subcontinental Lithiation Pt. 2” (McSweeney’s).
- 2014 “Your Prescribing Doctor: I Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (McSweeney’s).

Journalism

- 2021 “Nihilism, Optimism, and the Noble Cause” (Guernica).
- 2020 “How to Draw the Coronavirus” (Paris Review).
- 2019 “Not the Perfect Victim” (Guernica).
- 2019 “The Group Getting Queer People Outside Together” (Outside).
- 2018 “Defense Team Works to Move Van Dyke Trial out of Cook County, Citing Fairness Concerns for Officer Who Shot Laquan McDonald” (Social Justice News Nexus).
- 2017 “Two Syrian Twins Were Separated by the Assad Regime in 1984 – Now They’re Reunited in Chicago” (Pacific Standard).
- 2017 “The Role of Photography in Resisting Trump and Racism” (The Establishment).
- 2017 “In The Face of Threats to Trans Identity, Trans Liberation March Draws Massive Crowd” (Social Justice News Nexus).
- 2016 “Chicago Sex Workers Demand Right to Work Without Threat of Violence” (Social Justice News Nexus).
- 2016 “Six Flags Not So Great for Foreign Work-Visa Students” (In These Times).
- 2016 “Chicago Youth Activists Fight Trump’s Deportation Threats” (Social Justice News Nexus).
- 2016 “Post-Election, Fight for Police Accountability in Chicago Continues” (Social Justice News Nexus).
- 2016 “What Price Statehood? For Some, a Loss of Independence” (Social Justice News Nexus).

Interviews

- 2020 Ken Rosenberg (Believer).
- 2020 Ilana Masad (Full Stop).
- 2019 Jeannie Vanasco (Nylon).
- 2019 Amanda Goldblatt (Nylon).

- 2019 What the Scientists Who Photographed the Black Hole Like to Read (Paris Review).
- 2019 Andrew Ridker (Full Stop).

Criticism

- 2022 *The Seaplane on Final Approach* (Full Stop).
- 2022 *All This Could Be Different* (Los Angeles Review of Books).
- 2021 *Nineteen* (The Rumpus).
- 2021 *Kink: Stories* (Los Angeles Review of Books).
- 2021 *Paul at Home* (Believer).
- 2020 *We Keep the Dead Close* (Washington Post).
- 2020 *The Swamp, Year of the Rabbit, and Grass* (Full Stop).
- 2020 *We Are All Things* (Full Stop).
- 2020 *Becoming Horses* (Full Stop).
- 2020 *The Heart and Other Monsters* (Washington Post).
- 2020 *Good Morning, Destroyer of Men's Souls* (Washington Post).
- 2020 *Temporary* (Washington Post).
- 2019 *The Swallows* (Washington Post).
- 2019 *Loudermilk* (Washington Post).
- 2011 "Our Psychic Living Room: Reading David Foster Wallace" (The Common Review).

Humor

- 2020 A North Jersey Mob Boss Holds a Zoom Meeting about "Legitimate Business" (Points in Case).
- 2014 So You Want to Get Into an MFA Program: A Decision Tree (McSweeney's).
- 2010 Socrates and Glaucon on the Home Shopping Network (McSweeney's; *The Best of McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, 2014).
- 2010 Post-Apocalyptic American Girl Dolls (The Rumpus).
- 2009 A History of Twentieth-Century Literature in One *Mad Libs* Booklet! (The Common Review).
- 2008 Stephen Dedalus Meets the Office of Student Life (The Common Review).
- 2008 Ulysses Sells Out (McSweeney's).

2008	Children’s Film Sequels as Imagined by Famous Directors (McSweeney’s).
2007	The Dating Game: Eccentric Madman Edition (The Common Review).
2006	Brook Farm (The Common Review).

COURSES DESIGNED FOR SIU

Narrative Corners of the Internet (undergraduate)

A combination creative writing workshop and cultural studies course aimed at the critical investigation of the production, manipulation, and distortion of narratives on the internet. Students achieve “digital fluency” by reading digital humanistic theory and incorporating digital elements into their short stories.

The Digital Novella (graduate)

In addition to elucidating key craft principles and a historical survey of novellas, this workshop aims to introduce students to the hybrid digital/analog work, challenging students to use digital creation methods such as Twine, Twitter, memes, geocaching, podcasting, and even software like Microsoft PowerPoint to complete their novellas.

The New-New Journalism (graduate)

A nonfiction course and workshop in longform literary journalism designed to analyze works of “New-New Journalism” (i.e. the newest generation of nonfiction writers in the tradition of Joan Didion and Tom Wolfe) for their craft elements. Students write one 10,000-word piece of researched literary journalism and pose questions about the ethics of reporting. Notable guests in Spring 2020 included *Rolling Stone* music critic Kiana Fitzgerald, *Things We Didn’t Talk about When I Was a Girl* author Jeannie Vanasco, and New York Times reporter Ben Mauk.

The Novel (graduate; modified for undergraduate)

An exploration of the novel with an emphasis on the contemporary. Students read one novel every two weeks and workshop novel excerpts of their own with the understanding that they will be expected to produce at least three chapters plus a novel outline by the end of the semester. In-class writing exercises emphasizing

craft elements such as structure, characterization, and plot are assigned every other week. The in-class exercises are given “mini-workshops” during which students analyze how their work in class can inform the novels they’re writing outside of class.

Queering the Narrative (undergraduate)

In this workshop, students will use creative writing to investigate queerness in every sense of the term, from themes of gender and sexuality to digital subversions of analog works to narrative hybridism. Students will engage with works of all forms by LGBTQIA authors, from the printed word to the Twine game to the audio poem. The class will culminate in the completion of a digital project which constitutes a “queering” of a standard narrative, whether that be the incorporation of queer themes into an established story, the blending of two genres, or the conversion of the analog into the digital. The class will use radical texts by authors such as Audre Lorde, Leslie Feinberg, and Jos Charles to explore the page and the screen as potential portals for the expression of queer themes.

Modalities of Fiction (graduate)

A blend of a traditional short story workshop and the digital humanities, this course encourages students to read, write, and workshop short fiction which they will then “translate” into digital format. These exercises in translation are intended to help students better understand stories on a craft level and get more experimental and daring on the page. At the beginning of class, students read Matthew Salesses’s *Craft in the Real World* and build a new, non-traditional workshop together.

SERVICE

Advisory and Committee Positions

2022 – Present	Member, College of Liberal Arts Council.
2021 – Present	Member, Policy Committee.
2021 – Present	Faculty Advisor, Poetry Club.
2020 – Present	Faculty Advisor, Grassroots Magazine.
2020 – Present	Faculty Advisor, Queer Writers Group.

Lectures and Faculty Readings

- 2020 Fiction and Distraction (speaker, Sigma Tau Delta and SIUC English Department).
- 2019 Devil's Kitchen Literary Festival (SIUC English Department).

Digital Humanities Projects

- 2021 Words for Sound (narrative audio collaboration with Mass Communications and Media Arts at SIU).
- 2019-2020 *Night Sweats* (narrative comedy podcast).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

- 2022 Publishers Lunch Buzz Panel Pick (*Confidence*).
- 2021 Notable Essay, Best American Essays ("Feeling Bullish").
- 2021 SIU College of Liberal Arts Early Career Faculty Excellence Award.
- 2020 Longreads Best Profiles of 2020 ("Feeling Bullish").
- 2020 Granta's 10 Most Popular Essays of 2020 ("Feeling Bullish").
- 2019 Distinguished Judge, Illinois Arts Council Literary Awards.
- 2018 Creative Writing Fellowship, Luminarts Cultural Foundation.
- 2016 Notable Essay, Best American Essays ("Atypical").
- 2015 Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, Middlebury College.
- 2015 Richard E. Guthrie Memorial Fellowship, University of Iowa.
- 2014 Best of McSweeney's Internet Tendency Anthology, ("Socrates and Glaucon on the Home Shopping Network").
- 2014 McSweeney's Column Competition Winner.
- 2014 Critical Languages Scholarship, U.S. Department of State.
- 2013 Advanced German Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service.
- 2013 Teaching-Writing Fellowship, University of Iowa.
- 2012 Meta Rosenberg Fellowship, University of Iowa.
- 2009 Best American Nonrequired Reading Anthology, ("Monster").

PANELS, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS

- 2022 Being Funny: A Humor Workshop (Catapult).
- 2021 Trans Maximalisms and the Everyday (panelist, Guernica).
- 2020 Writing the Polyphonic Novel (instructor, Catapult).
- 2020 Humor and the Apocalypse (speaker, Story Studio).
- 2020 Writing Comedy in the Time of COVID (speaker, Arlington Heights Library).
- 2018 The Rebeccas: A Conversation Between Rebecca Makkai and Rebekah Frumkin (speaker, Volumes Bookcafe).
- 2018 Work-Work Balance: When a Day Job Pays More than the Bills (panelist, AWP).
- 2017 Alternatives to Calling the Police During Mental Health Crises (organizer and facilitator).
- 2017 Queer Activists Living in the Age of Trump (panelist, Northwestern University).
- 2017 Building Character (instructor, Catapult).
- 2011 Nebeneinander, Nacheinander: James Joyce, Bertrand Russell, and the Philosophy of Language (speaker, Zurich James Joyce Foundation Joyce Symposium).

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010-2012 Contributing Editor, The Common Review.
2008-2010 Editorial Assistant, The Common Review.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Independent Researcher, Social Justice News Nexus.
2011 Research Fellow, Zurich James Joyce Foundation.
2008-2009 Research Assistant, The Great Books Foundation.

READINGS

- 2019 Mission Creek Festival (Iowa City, IA; sponsored by *The Believer*).
2018 Lake Forest Bookstore (Lake Forest, IL).
2018 Scuppernong Books (Greensboro, NC).
2018 Gramercy Books (Bexley, OH).
2018 Cuyahoga Library (Greater Cleveland, OH).
2018 Bookbug (Kalamazoo, MI).
2018 Point Street Reading Series (Providence, RI).
2018 Prairie Lights (Iowa City, IA).
2018 Women and Children First (Chicago, IL).
2018 Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL).
2014 University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA).
2014 Iowa Writers' Workshop (Iowa City, IA).
2012 Carleton College (Northfield, MN).